

NPA Ward 6, May 3, 2018
Meeting notes

Present: approximately 35 people including presenters and steering committee present were: Charles Simpson, Matt Grady, Michelle Mraz, Brian MacDonald

7:00 Meeting came to order.

1. Minutes from the April meeting were approved.
2. There were no public comments
3. Councilmember Karen Paul announced that several position on boards and commissions will need to be filled. She will email the list to those interested. The applications are reviewed and selected by a subcommittee of the City Council. If there is no agreement, candidates are interviewed. It is possible to apply on-line. The deadline is May 23.
4. A new steering committee was elected by acclamation because there were five candidates for five positions. Those elected were:
 1. Gail Rafferty
 2. Mary Riley
 3. Matt Grady
 4. Michelle Mraz
 5. Charles Simpson
5. Marty Spaulding, Director of Property Services for the Burlington School District, discussed the Edmund's School renovation proposal. The city-wide school renovation plans over the next ten years will cost \$39 million; about \$10 million will be needed for Edmunds; \$4 million for Champlain. Construction will start in June, beginning with a renovation of Building C, turning the basement into a cafeteria serving 180, the same as at present. This will cost from 3.75 to 4.25 million. Building C will become the entry way for the entire campus. The present cafeteria which uses the gym space will get new flooring and continue as a multi-use area. There will be a new elevator and the library will be reconfigured as a library/maker space. This initiative came from teachers and will have space for student projects. A new access drive from So. Union connecting to Main will be built giving direct ADA accessibility to Building C. The design is not final at this point. Questions (Q): Will this eliminate buses and cars on So. Union picking up students? Answer (A): It will reduce the impact there. Q. What of the kids that walk and bike? A. There will be a crosswalk and walkway from Main Street across the new driveway to the main entry. Further west there will be a second crosswalk. Q. Will the road make it more dangerous for students? Can there be a pull off on So. Union? A. We are looking into this. Safety is a prime consideration. The current horseshoe drive can't accommodate buses well. This is much safer than the current access off the parking lot. See the Board's website for notice of public meetings and a FAQ page.
6. Meagan Tuttle, Comprehensive Planner, Planning and Zoning. We are working to refresh Plan BTV for the entire city. This is a comprehensive plan covering the next 10-20 years and will cover housing, the natural environment, energy and other areas, including their interrelationship. There will be workshops this month, including one at

Aiken Hall, Champlain College, May 22, 6-8 pm. Notice is on the City website. Q. Do you anticipate big changes? A. Changes include aging demographics, how we address climate change, but not much really new. The web site includes P&Z's presentation to the City Council. www.burlingtonvt.gov/planbtv.

7. Cindi Wight, Director of Parks and Recreation, discussed summer events. North Beach marks a 100 year anniversary and the camp site a 95 year anniversary this August 11-12. Kids day is this Saturday. July 3 will have the Fourth of July fireworks display paid for by the Pomerleau family. Summer camps are continuing this year. 10,000 meals were served last summer and the same will be served this summer. The Bike Path will be closed in sections for renovation over the next 2 weeks. The **Burlington Youth Conservation Corp is seeking girls, 15-18, for summer jobs at minimum wages over 8 weeks; they have lots of male applicants.** Grant money from Pennies for Parks is available; submit applications via Parks & Rec website.
8. Vince Comai, City Arborist, discussed the emerald ash borer problem. It kills all varieties of ash and arrived in the U.S. in 2002. It was seen in Vermont last year along with 31 other states and several Canadian provinces. When the damage is visible it is too late to save a tree. It would cost 1.2 million dollars to remove and replace every ash in the city, of which there are 1250. Injection with chemicals is effective for two years but doesn't work on young or very mature trees. It is also a neonicotinoid, toxic to bees, so that's a consideration. Ward 6 has only 26 ash trees. The city will be placing traps, but these are only for research and aren't effective against the insect. We have 12,560 trees on public land in the city. Q. What about ash trees on private land? A. contact a certified arborist. My contact is vcomai@burlingtonvt.gov
9. Clare Wool and Jeff Wick, School Board report. Clare is the new chair of the board. The board is unified and working well with the superintendent on the capital plan. We meet twice a month now, the first and second Tuesdays, and the public is invited. After 8 months of negotiations, the contract with the para-educators has been settled and will go to the BEA for a vote tonight, to the board for ratification next week. There are 175 pare-educators in our 9 schools, serving the most vulnerable. Q. A board member for the first time took part in these negotiations? A. Yes, Clare did. We don't have statutory authority over para-educators so we haven't participated in the past. This time it was useful. The committee exploring the build/renovate options for BHS has recommended renovation. This will cost from 60-70 million dollars via a bond issue. Marty Spaulding, Director of Facilities, said that no state money is available for this project.
10. Sandy Yuson, External Relations, Champlain College. She indicated that commencement was May 12 in two shifts, 10 am and 3 pm, with guests shuttled to the Lakeside lot. Residence halls close May 5 or May 13 for seniors. May 23 will be a public event, Dining in the Queen City. At the June NPA meeting they will give an update on 194 St. Paul Street residence.
11. Lise Kingsbury, of UVM Campus Planning Services, said the STEM building project continues as does hospital construction, but only small projects in Ward 6. The Gutterson complex infill project will go to the City for approvals soon and may start in spring, 2019. Q. Will the basketball court stay? A. Yes, with an elevated running track.

12. Charles Simpson presented a plan to have each NPA select 1 members of a committee that with 8 City Council members would evaluate candidates for boards and commissions. This advisory proposal will be voted on at the June meeting.

Meeting adjourned: 9 pm.

Minutes by Charles Simpson